

Appl. No. 10/671,626
Amendment dated: November 17, 2006
Reply to OA of: August 25, 2006

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 4, 6 and 7 in the outstanding Official Action and the indication that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended to add the limitation from the base claim and any intervening claims. Rejected claims 2, 5 and 8 have been canceled from the present application without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 6 has been amended to correct a minor error and object to claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form to be placed in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment is in order as it is intended to place the application in immediate condition for allowance.

The objection of claim 9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the claim. It is indicated in the outstanding Official Action that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claim 9 in independent form to include all the limitations of claim 8 and to place claim 9 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Applicants most respectfully submit that all of the claims now present in the application are in full compliance with 35 USC 112 and clearly patentable over the references of record.

The rejection of claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kagami has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed in view of the cancellation of these claims from the present application, without prejudice or disclaimer, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application to an early allowance.

The rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamada in view of Kagami has been carefully considered but is most respectfully

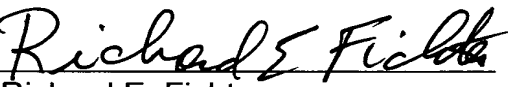
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traversed in view of the cancellation of the claim from the present application, without prejudice or disclaimer, in an effort to expedite the prosecution to an early allowance by restricting the application to allowable subject matter.

In view of the above comments and further amendments to the specification and claims, it is most respectfully request that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn and favorable reconsideration and allowance of all the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the Examiner is welcome to discuss any remaining issues with Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 17, 2006